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Serial No. 10/523,844
67222-001

REMARKS

Claims 1 and 3-6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Engdahl et al. (2001/0039168). Engdahl et al. does not disclose a wafer rotating device including three rollers having cylindrical surfaces which contacts only a circumferential surface of a wafer without contacting a top surface and a bottom surface of the wafer when a rotation drive mechanism is activated as claimed. Engdahl et al. discloses semiconductor wafers each held by a different head assembly 52 when proceeding along a process path defined by an index plate. Each head assembly 52 holds one wafer. The head assembly 52 retains the wafer against a wafer receiving plate 54 and within a boundary defined by a retaining ring 56 that surrounds (and extends beyond) a plane of the wafer receiving plate 54. A plurality of fluid conduits 58 are distributed around the wafer receiving plate 54 to assist the head assembly 52 in retaining the wafer either through surface tension or a partial vacuum created between the wafer and the wafer receiving plate 54. The wafer contacts either the top or the bottom of the wafer receiving plate 54 during processing. The wafer does not contact only a circumferential surface of the wafer receiving plate 54 without contacting the top surface and the bottom surface of the wafer receiving plate 54 when a rotation drive mechanism is activated to rotate the wafer as claimed. The claimed invention is not anticipated, and Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection be withdrawn.

Thus, claims 1, 3-6 and 9-10 are in condition for allowance. No additional fees are seen to be required. If any additional fees are due, however, the Commissioner is authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 50-1482, in the name of Carlson, Gaskey & Olds, P.C., for any additional fees or credit the account for any overpayment. Therefore, favorable reconsideration and allowance of this application is respectfully requested.

Respectfully Submitted,

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CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE

I hereby certify that this response is being facsimile transmitted to the United States Patent and Trademark Office, 571-273-8300 on February 9, 2007.


Amy M. Spaulding

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